



COD Processing Update

October 7, 2011

NEWS/UPDATES

• **COD Common Record XML Schema Version 3.0e Now Available (10/07/11)**

During the period March 9-10, 2012, Federal Student Aid plans to implement Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System functionality that will support the processing of Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) awards for the 2012-2013 Award Year. In conjunction with this implementation, Federal Student Aid will begin using a new version of the COD Common Record Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema. The new schema version is 3.0e.

Note: The COD System will not process records for the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) programs for the 2012-2013 Award Year. However, changes to the COD Common Record XML Schema may still apply to records submitted for these programs for prior award years.

Effective upon completion of the March 9-10, 2012 COD System implementation—

- All 2012-2013 Common Record documents must be sent by schools and will be acknowledged by the COD System using COD Common Record XML Schema Version 3.0e.
- All 2012-2013 unsolicited system-generated responses will be sent by the COD System using COD Common Record XML Schema Version 3.0e.
- COD Web Activity responses for all award years will be sent by the COD System using COD Common Record XML Schema Version 3.0e.
- All available school reports, including data requests, will continue to be sent in formats other than XML.

For complete information about the new schema version, refer to [“COD Common Record XML Schema Version 3.0e.”](#)

If you have questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

• **Third 2010-2011 Verification Status Code “W” Warning Message (10/05/11)**

On October 5, 2011, Federal Student Aid began processing a text message (PGTX11OP) as well as a Reconciliation Report (PGRC11OP) to schools that have one or more 2010-2011 student records still reported with a verification status code of “W”. The message is a warning that disbursements to all students with a verification status code of “W” will be considered overawards and reduced to a zero dollar amount (\$0.00), even though the disbursements were previously accepted in the COD System. The reduction of the affected disbursements is scheduled to occur on October 19, 2011.

A school that receives the warning message should review the accompanying Reconciliation Report and submit appropriate changes to the verification status codes for affected students before October 19, 2011. The school does not need to request administrative relief to **only** update the verification status codes for affected students.



Notes:

- For the conditions under which each verification status code should be used, refer to [the September 28, 2007 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#)
- A school does not need to submit a verification status code and should leave the field blank (nil = "True") if the student was not selected for verification or if a selected transaction was received by the school after the student was no longer enrolled.
- The COD System will not accept a verification status code of "W" for the 2010-2011 Award Year after September 30, 2011.

Following the October 19, 2011 reduction, if a school needs additional time to submit an acceptable verification status code (other than "W") and disbursement records for a value greater than zero (\$0.00) for the affected students, it will need to ask for administrative relief.

A school will be able to request Administrative Relief and Extended Processing for the 2010-2011 Award Year via the COD Web site beginning October 3, 2011. However, a school should not submit a request until after it has completed reconciliation of all program records as well as its research and is ready to submit the data to the COD System. The school must submit a separate request for each grant program for which it needs Administrative Relief or Extended Processing.

For more information on how to request Administrative Relief or Extended Processing for the ACG Program, Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, National SMART Grant Program, or Pell Grant Program schools should refer to [the September 1, 2011 Electronic Announcement and attachment posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#).

If you have any questions about the warning message or about reporting verification status codes to the COD System, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **Removal of Data for Closed Award Years from Production Environment [(09/27/11) Updated 10/05/11]**

On October 4, 2011, we updated this announcement to reflect the extension of the outage period associated with the removal of data for closed award years.

During the period October 7-9, 2011, Federal Student Aid will remove data for closed years from the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System's production environment. As a general rule, schools no longer need to submit data to the COD System or access data via the [COD Web site](#) for these closed years.

For complete information, refer to [the September 26, 2011 Electronic Announcement](#) posted on the IFAP Web site.

- **End of Federal Fiscal Year 2011 – Impact on Funds Availability [09/02/11 (Updated 10/03/11)]**

As explained in a [September 1, 2011 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#), September 30, 2011 marked the end of the Federal fiscal year for the Department of Education (the Department). Some of the Department's core financial systems, including G5, were on a modified processing schedule while the Department finalized its processing and accounting for Fiscal Year 2011.

The Department is pleased to report the successful completion of this work and the availability of G5. The Department appreciates schools' patience and understanding as it completed the required activities. All financial processing was caught up on Monday, October 3, 2011.



• **Loan Servicing Information – Transition to New Direct Loan Servicing Center (ACS) System and Web Sites Planned for October 10, 2011 (Update #5) (09/27/11)**

Over the past few months, Federal Student Aid has communicated that the Direct Loan Servicing Center (ACS), one of the Department of Education's six federal loan servicers, plans to transition to a new loan servicing system in fall 2011. In addition to the new system, the Direct Loan Servicing Center (ACS) will launch new Web sites for schools as well as William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) borrowers and Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant recipients. The implementation of the new system and Web sites is scheduled for October 10, 2011.

For complete information about the transition, refer to [the September 23, 2011 Electronic Announcement](#) on the IFAP Web site.

CURRENT ISSUES

ALL PROGRAMS

COD Web site Returning Errors When Updating Person Information [(07/11/11) Updated 09/23/11]

Federal Student Aid has identified an issue when schools attempt to update person information via the COD Web site. Specifically, when a user is updating person information, the Award list defaults to an award from a "closed" Award Year.

When attempting to submit the updated information, a user will receive an error message stating, "Updates are not allowed for this School and Award Year, either because the Award Year is closed and the School is not in extended processing or because FSA has confirmed closeout. If you have any questions, please contact COD Support. Please select a different Award for this person or select cancel."

To update person information a user must first select an award from the current award year from the Award list. Federal Student Aid is working to resolve the issue and plans to implement a fix in October 2011.

We apologize for any inconvenience this issue may cause schools. If you have any questions contact the COD School Relations Center.

DIRECT LOANS

Incorrect Servicer Information in September 2011 Direct Loan SAS (10/05/11)

Federal Student Aid has identified an issue with the federal loan servicer information provided in the September 2011 Direct Loan School Account Statement (SAS). This SAS included data through September 30, 2011 and was available in Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailboxes on October 3, 2011.

The financial transactions in the September 2011 Direct Loan SAS are correct; however, the servicer information is incorrect and should not be used by schools. The issue affects the September 2011 Direct Loan SAS for all open award years.

Federal Student Aid plans to correct the federal loan servicer information in the October 2011 Direct Loan SAS. In the meantime, schools can log in to the COD Web site and select the Servicer search from the Person menu to identify the servicer for a particular award. Schools can also select the Borrower-Servicer Relationship search from the View Person Information screen.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience this issue may cause. If you have additional questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.



GRANTS

Pell Grant Awards Rejecting Incorrectly for Edit 38 When Last Name Change Involved (09/09/11)

Federal Student Aid has discovered an issue when a school submits a Pell Grant award and the student's "original" and "current" last name field tags do not match. The COD System is incorrectly trying to link the CPS transaction using the original last name instead of the current last name. The school is then receiving COD Reject Edit 38 (Student not Pell eligible) incorrectly because the last name on the CPS transaction and the Pell Grant award record do not match.

Federal Student Aid is working on a fix for the issue and plans to implement it in late October 2011. As a temporary workaround until the system fix, a school should submit the student's "current" last name in **both** the <LastName> tag in the Student Identifier/Index block and the <LastName> change tag.

REMINDERS

COD Holiday Schedule For October 10, 2011 (09/30/11)

Monday, October 10, 2011 is the Columbus Day Federal holiday.

- The COD School Relations Center will be open.
- The COD System will accept and process data from schools and send back responses/acknowledgements, but schools will not be able to receive any Federal funds on that day. Requests for changes in funding levels and for funds will not be processed until Tuesday, October 11, 2011.

Complete information regarding processing and customer service hours for COD and other Federal Student Aid/Department of Education call centers on the holiday is posted in a [September 30, 2011 Electronic Announcement](#) on the IFAP Web site.

COD Computer-Based Training (10/07/11)

Federal Student Aid takes this opportunity to remind the community of the availability of the COD Computer-Based Training (CBT).

The COD CBT consists of component simulations and CBTs. The electronic files associated with each component, as well as information about downloading and navigating the COD CBT, are available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. Under the "Tools for Schools" section on the home page, click on [COD Computer-Based Training](#).

Sending Addresses for U.S. Territories and Foreign Countries on the Common Record or the COD Web site (10/07/11)

When submitting student or borrower addresses or address changes to the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System, it is important that the correct tags are used, particularly when the student or borrower address is located in a U.S. Territory or Foreign Country. If these addresses are not submitted correctly, important correspondence from the COD System and the federal loan servicers is delayed or not received.

- When a student or borrower address is located in a U.S. Territory it is considered a domestic address. Do not submit a Country Code.
- When a student or borrower address is located in a Foreign Country, it is treated as a foreign address.

See below for the correct procedures for submitting U.S. Territories and Foreign Country addresses via the Common Record batch submission or COD Web site.

Submitting Addresses for U.S. Territories and Foreign Countries via the Common Record

When creating or updating a person record via the Common Record batch submission, a school should send the address block with the following tags:



Schema Version	<i>Included</i> Tags for Domestic Address, including U.S. Territories	<i>Excluded</i> Tags for Domestic Address, including U.S. Territories	Included Tags for Foreign Addresses
3.0c or 3.0d	<AddressLine> <City> <StateProvinceCode> <PostalCode>	<StateProvince> <CountryCode>	<AddressLine> <City> <StateProvince> (Optional) <PostalCode> (Optional) <CountryCode>

Submitting Addresses for U.S. Territories and Foreign Countries via the COD Web site

When creating or updating a person record on the COD Web site, a school should select the U.S. Territory from the dropdown box in the State/Province field. A school should select the Country field as “Blank”.

A complete list of State Codes (including U.S. Territories), Jurisdictions, and Country Codes are provided in Volume VI, Section 4 of the [2010-2011 COD Technical Reference](#). If you have questions about this information, contact the COD School Relations Center.